

Terpening, Dustin

From: Terpening, Dustin
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 2:18 PM
Subject: WSDOT Crews Find Snow-Donut

Attachments: DSCF1936.JPG

WSDOT maintenance crews spotted a rare snow-donut this week while doing some reconnaissance work up the North Cascades pass (SR 20). They snapped a picture of the elusive donut. Crews were scouting the avalanche chutes above the pass and measuring the snow depth over the highway when they saw it.



DSCF1936.JPG
(956 KB)

We plan to start plowing snow off the pass March 26, and expect the work to take up to six weeks to complete. The snow is deeper than previous years. We hope to have the pass open to drivers by mid-May.

According to WSDOT Communicator Jeff Adamson, the donuts are low in calories.

Contacts:

Jeff Adamson - 509.667.2815

Dustin Terpening - 360.757.5997

For more detailed information about the pass, visit www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes/northcascades

Dustin Terpening

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Snow doughnuts roll into national spotlight

By K.C. Mehaffey, World staff writer
Thursday - March 22, 2007

WASHINGTON PASS — Talking to Mike Stanford about snow is like talking to a gourmet chef about food.

The frozen white stuff that most people are sick of by mid-March comes alive when you spend a few minutes chatting with the Lake Wenatchee man.

That's because Stanford is an avalanche forecaster and control technician for the state Department of Transportation. He's used to seeing already-spilled avalanches as deep as a five-story building on the North Cascades Highway. Sometimes conditions provide hillsides filled with snow trails made by nature's snowballs ranging from pebbles to boulders.



But last Tuesday, on a routine trip to the Washington Pass summit to retrieve a broken-down snow cat, he happened upon what untrained eyes might see as a breakfast snack for yeti: snow doughnuts.

One was nearly perfectly formed and sitting upright in the snow, two feet high with an eight-inch center hole. Behind it a smaller one had rolled down the slope like a runaway tire and then flipped on its side. Farther down the road he found a third that was "at a later stage of life," Stanford said. Again, speaking about the creations as living beings, he noted, "Snow is an amazing element. Sometimes it lives so close to its melting point, especially in the spring."

He said he's only seen snow doughnuts one other time in more than 30 years of "playing and working" in the snow -- with DOT for 17 years and before that as a forecaster at Stevens Pass.

Finding them was a surprise, but even more surprising to Stanford was the media frenzy that followed.

Since sharing his pictures with coworkers, he's been interviewed on National Public Radio, seen his photographs in USA Today, and was mentioned on ABC's "Good Morning, America." That's on top of stories in Seattle newspapers and television stations, and smaller papers across the country.

"That was absolutely the big surprise," he said of all the attention.

Jeff Adamson, spokesman for the regional office, said "battles between producers and reporters about whether those are real or fake have been going on across the country," Adamson said. "At any moment, we're expecting Jay Leno's going to call."



For the umpteenth time, Stanford explained how snow doughnuts form:

A clump of snow drops from a tree or cliff to the ground, and starts snowballing down a slope, "like building a snowman," he said.

The clump hits the fresh snow on top of a hard crust. Hitting the hard surface forces the snow to curl back uphill for a moment, creating a hole in the center before it heads downhill picking up more snow on the outside.

Usually, the center collapses in on itself, and becomes a pinwheel which have more angular edges and there is no hole in the middle.

Once in a great while, the hole remains, forming a doughnut-like snow sculpture.

"The snow is of a perfect consistency where it didn't allow the center to collapse in on itself," he said. In addition: "The velocity had to be just right, and the snow temperature had to be just right, and the air temperature had to be just right. A lot of pieces of the puzzle had to fit," he said.

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Wonder if these doughnuts are fat-free



Mike Stanford / special to the Skagit Valley Herald

These two snow doughnuts were discovered by state Department of Transportation crews last week as they cleared snow and other debris from Highway 20 in hopes of reopening the roadway. The two unusual wheels formed because of snow and avalanche conditions along North Cascades Highway. The recipe for a snow doughnut starts with a hard layer of snow on a steep slope. The hard layer is covered by several inches of dense snow, state officials said. The doughnut is triggered by a clump of snow falling from a tree or a rock face. The clump rolls downhill like a snowball. Most of the time, the center collapses forming a "pinwheel," but if it doesn't, it forms a doughnut, officials said.

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Naturally Occurring Snow Doughnut



A WSDOT crew recently found this snow doughnut along the closed portion of the North Cascades Highway. According to Mike Stanford, of the WSDOT avalanche team, snow doughnuts are a natural occurrence, formed when there is a hard layer of snow covered by several inches of dense snow. Add in a steep slope, and upon a trigger the snow rolls down the hill. Stanford says 99.9 percent of the time the rolling snowball collapses, but with perfect snow density and temperature it rolls around leaving the hole in the center, creating the doughnut-looking shape. *Photo courtesy of Dustin Terpening/WSDOT*

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A rare treat from nature: Perfect snow doughnuts

By [Susan Gilmore](#)
Seattle Times staff reporter

No, it's not a promotion for Winchell's or Krispy Kreme.

"This is no joke. We did not build it," said Mike Stanford, an avalanche-control expert with the state Department of Transportation (WSDOT). "They are a natural occurrence in nature."

Stanford found frozen doughnuts of snow on the top of Washington Pass in the North Cascades this week when he was doing avalanche-control work.

At first he couldn't believe his eyes: Perfectly shaped doughnuts had rolled down the mountainside and frozen in place.

He said it's only the second time in his 30 years of working in the snow that he's seen anything like it.

The larger of the snow rollers, as they are commonly called, was about 24 inches tall, he said, large enough for him to put his head through the hole.

Stanford said snow rollers form when there is a hard layer on the snow, covered by several more inches of dense snow. "Then you add a steep slope and a trigger such as a clump of snow falling out of a tree or off of a rock face."

As gravity pulls a clump down, it usually rolls down the hill and collapses, creating what the WSDOT calls a pinwheel. Or it will not roll at all, and come down in an avalanche of snow. But if the snow is the perfect density and temperature, it rolls down leaving a hole in the center, Stanford said.



MIKE STANFORD
Snow doughnuts, like these found in the North Cascades, form when snow conditions are just right.

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Strong, gusty winds also can be a factor, according to NOAA's National Weather Service office in central Illinois, where snow rollers have occurred.

As soon as the sun comes out and it warms up, the doughnuts would be gone, Stanford said Friday.

Don't think you can drive up to see them. They sit on Washington Pass, 14 miles east of where the highway is closed for the winter.

"No, there are not many of them," Stanford said of his discovery. "The temperature and snow conditions have to be just right."

Susan Gilmore: 206-464-2054 or sgilmore@seattletimes.com

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WSDOT crews spot giant doughnut

07:13 AM PDT on Friday, March 16, 2007

KING5.com

MARBLEMOUNT, Wash. - WSDOT maintenance crews spotted a rare snow doughnut this week while doing some reconnaissance work on the North Cascades Highway.



WSDOT

At least, these doughnuts are fat-free!

Crews were scouting the avalanche chutes above the pass and measuring the snow depth over the highway when they saw it.

According to Mike Stanford of WSDOT, everything has to be just right for snow doughnuts - also called snow rollers by some - to happen. The snow needs to have certain elasticity, and air and ground temperature have to be at just the right level.

He says it starts with a rolling snowball on a steep slope, which curls, and instead of collapsing on itself it just continues to roll. He says it is a freak occurrence in nature, but that it does happen once in a while, and when it does happen, it's not unusual to see more than one.

The WSDOT crew says they plan to start plowing snow off the pass March 26 and expect the work to take up to six weeks to complete.

The snow is deeper than previous years. They hope to have the pass open to drivers by mid-May.



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Snow Donut

By WSDOT Crews

WSDOT maintenance crews spotted a rare snow-donut this week while doing some reconnaissance work up the North Cascades p (SR 20). They snapped a picture of the elusive donut. Crews were scouting the avalanche chutes above the pass and measuring the snow depth over the highway when they saw it.

Location: North Cascades Pass

Date: Thursday, Mar 15th, 2007

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Mmmm . . . doughnuts



2007, up the North Cascades Pass near Mizamma, Wash.

You can almost visualize Homer Simpson salivating over these pictures. While they look like giant doughnuts, these circular snowballs are better known as snow rollers. Washington State Department of Transportation maintenance workers spotted these snow rollers on March 13,



Snow rollers form under very specific weather conditions. One requirement is a crusty layer of snow on the ground to which new snow will not stick. A light accumulation of loose, wet snow on top of the crusty snow can then roll up when blown by gusty winds that serve to scoop it up off the crusty layer.

As gravity pulls a clump down, it usually rolls down the hill and collapses. Sometimes it will not roll at all, and will come down in an

avalanche of snow. But if the snow is the perfect density and temperature, it rolls down leaving a hole in the center, according to Mike Stanford, an avalanche-control expert with the Washington State

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Department of Transportation.

The National Weather Service office in Lincoln, Ill., put together [a nice webpage on snow rollers](#), with a nice formation explanation as well as photos of a snow roller event that occurred in Feb. 2003.

(Photos courtesy of Washington State Dept. of Transportation, via AP)

Posted at 04:37 PM/ET, March 18, 2007 in

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People & Places

Snow Doughnuts Are the Real Thing



Mike Stanford

Snow doughnuts this large are rare. The snow has to achieve a certain elasticity, and the temperature has to be just right for the doughnut not to collapse on itself as it rolls into formation.

All Things Considered, March 19, 2007 · Maintenance crews in Washington state spotted a snow doughnut last week on the North Cascades Highway. At first glance, a snow doughnut may look like a man-made creation. But Mike Stanford, who snapped this photo, assures Robert Siegel that snow doughnuts are real — but rare — natural occurrences.

Stanford, who has worked as an avalanche forecaster and control technician at the [Washington State Department of Transportation](#) for more than 30 years, says he's never seen a snow doughnut as large as the one in this photo. It's roughly 26-inches tall with a 8-inch diameter hole.

"It's formed by a clump of snow falling off of a cliff or a tree into the snow pack. And if the conditions and temperature are just right, as gravity takes over, it pulls the snow down, and it rolls back on itself," Stanford says. "Usually the center collapses and it creates what we call a pinwheel."

But when the hole stays open, it creates a shape that resembles a car tire covered with ice, or a gigantic, white Cheerio.



Tuesday, April 10, 2007

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Snow use sloping off, McDonut



Roll over ... ice donut forms on hill in Washington which may remind readers of Steve McClaren, ins

March 27, 2007

COMMENT ON THIS STORY

FLOP soccer boss Steve McClaren is not the only donut getting a frosty reception.

This two-foot high iced ring version appeared in the snow at Washington Pass, US.

Like the England chief it was on a slippery slope.

McClaren got a chilly reaction from England fans after the team's dismal goal-less draw in Israel.

The snow donut looked like a hoax but scientists insist it is a natural occurrence, although extremely rare. Much like an England goal at the moment.

Avalanche expert Mike Stanford said: "I've only seen them once before in my 30-year career."

He said they form when a hard layer on snow is covered by a dense layer. A clump then creates a big frozen zero when it tumbles down.

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Snow use sloping off, McDonut!

FLOP soccer boss Steve McClaren is not the only donut getting a frosty reception.

This two-foot high iced ring version appeared in the snow at Washington Pass, US.

Like the England chief it was on a slippery slope. McClaren got a chilly reaction from England fans after the team's dismal goal-less draw in Israel.

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Avalanche expert Mike Stanford said: "I've only seen them once before in my 30-year career."

He said they form when a hard layer on snow is covered by a dense layer. A clump then creates a big frozen zero when it tumbles down.

Sounds like a better formation than England's 4-4-2.



Roll over... ice donut forms on side of a hill



Donuts... snow and McClaren, left



Rules... Ms Jowell

TV chiefs get quiz warning

By COLIN ROBERTSON

TELLY bosses may be prosecuted if phone-in quizzes break strict rules, the Government warned last night.

Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell said if the shows amounted to lotteries they would be axed and the operators punished.

A document from her department said regulators Ofcom and Ictis would soon reveal "strengthened regulation".

The warning was a reply to a Commons committee's call for tighter rules to stop rip-offs.

MPs cited one game where the top answer for a popular pet was BEARDED DRAGON.

Ofcom said yesterday a game on the Quiz Call channel breached guidelines. The clue to things in Australia was Alice

The answer was Alice Springs Camel Cup - which no one got right.

Fatal rail blunders

THE Paddington Rail disaster was caused by Railtrack's "catalogue of failures to act" for years, a court heard yesterday.

The 1999 crash - which killed 31 - was caused when a Thames train went through a red light at Ladbroke Grove and hit another train.

Blackfriars Crown Court heard a driver had run red lights there SEVEN times in five years.

Railtrack failed to ensure a signal was fully visible. The firm, now Network Rail, faces an unlimited fine for safety blunders. Trial continues.

1 IN 4 ABORTIONS ARE FOR EAST EUROPEANS

By EMMA MORTON

PREGNANCY services are in crisis because of the number of young Eastern European women coming to Britain, it was revealed yesterday.

The flood of pregnant EU workers has forced some NHS trust areas to axe ante-

Soaring demand puts NHS in crisis

natal and post-natal services. And a medical group in Luton said 250 of 1,000 women seeking **ABORTIONS** in the past year were from new EU countries.

Dr Nina Pearson, from the town's Lea Vale clinic, said: "It's having an enormous impact on the workload for the mid-

wives and post-natal work. We're struggling to keep up."

More than 500,000 immigrants have come to work in the UK from Poland and other countries since joining the EU in 2004.

NHS antenatal classes have been axed or suspended to save cash in ten areas of England

and Wales. Post-natal home visits have also been cut back.

Sexual healthcare charity BPAS chief Ann Furedi said: "This is a genuine problem for planners and policy makers."

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Challenge... Ann Furedi



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Ribena in £1m row over vitamin claim

BY CAROLINE McCLATCHEY

THE maker of Ribena could face a £1million bill after two schoolgirls found the blackcurrant drink contained almost no vitamin C.

GlaxoSmithKline is due in court today on charges of misleading advertising. It marks the end of a three-year campaign by Anna Devathan and Jenny Suo, who tested the syrup-based drink against advertising claims that 'the blackcurrants in Ribena have four times the vitamin C of oranges'.

Instead the girls, who tested the drink during science lessons, found it contained almost no trace of vitamin C.

An orange juice tested by the pair had almost four times as much vitamin C as Ribena. 'We thought we must have made a mistake,' said Anna, 17.

GlaxoSmithKline refused to comment until after the case. It had paid little attention to the claims until they reached the Commerce Commission in the girls' home country of New Zealand. The

CHEAP teabags are filled with little more than dust, an expert claimed yesterday. Professional taster Martin Isark said he was disgusted by Asda's Smartprice tea, at 29p for 80 bags. He said: 'Cabbage water tastes better.' But an Asda spokesman said: 'Asda brand tea ranges from the highest-quality leaf down to the finer-cut leaf. This is reflected in the price.'

group faces 15 charges in Auckland, risking fines of up to £1million.

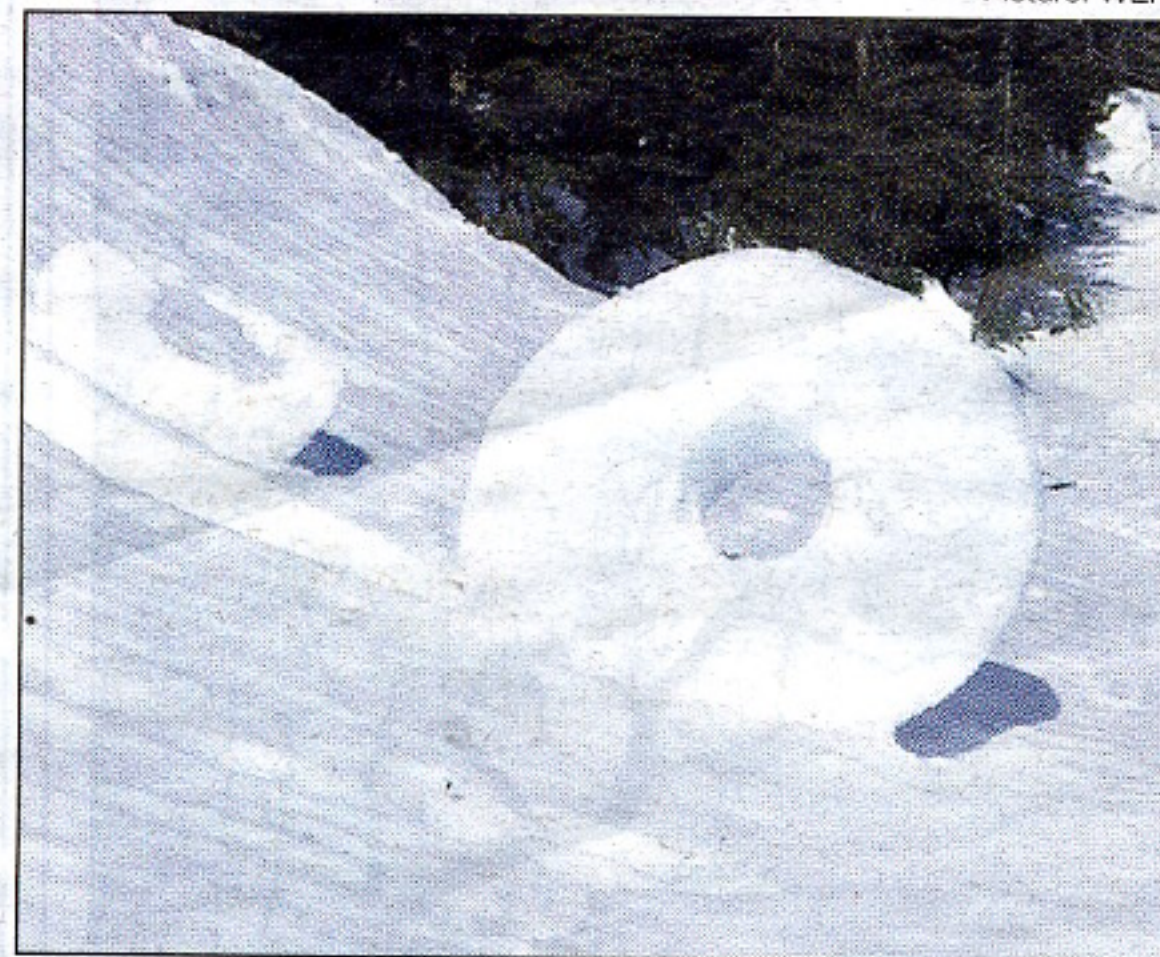
Ribena sold in Britain claims to be 'rich in vitamin C'.

In 2000, GSK fell foul of Britain's Advertising Standards Authority over Ribena's Toothkind product.

It claimed its special formula countered the impact of fruit acids on teeth but the ASA ruled this was misleading – a view upheld by the High Court.

LOOK! WHEEL SNOW

Picture: WENN



It may look like a giant Polo mint sculpted in snow but this 'ice hoop' is a natural phenomenon which was formed by falling snow, high winds and gravity as it tumbled down the Washington Pass in the US

HAIR LOSS?

It doesn't need to be a problem



"Thanks to The Belgravia Centre my hair is as thick as it used to be"
Photographic Model Sean Moore

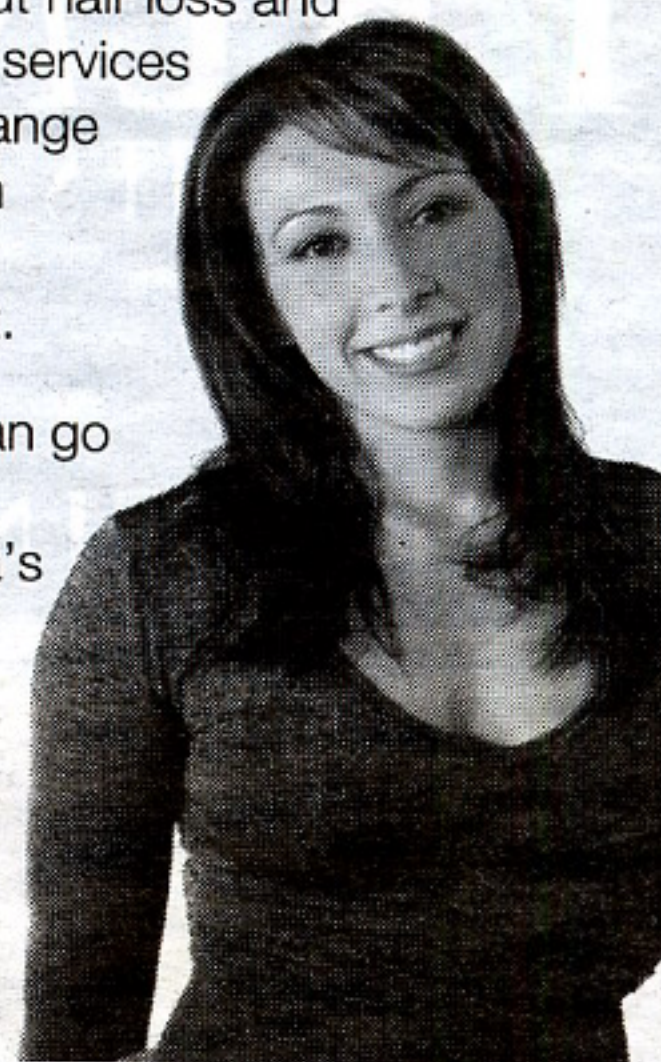
The Belgravia Trichological Centre has helped many thousands of men and women and could almost certainly help you too.

When it comes to hair loss The Belgravia Trichological Centre offers the most effective clinically proven treatment courses for both men and women, ensuring that 9 out of 10 people will experience a high level of hair loss stabilisation. Most will also experience renewed hair growth, as can be seen in the hundreds of successful before and during treatment photo-scans that can be found at our website.

Belgravia's 50-strong team of experts specialise in nothing but hair loss and scalp care and help thousands of people every year. "Not only do we provide a highly professional and caring service at a very reasonable cost, but we also see very good results in almost all cases", says Senior Trichologist Leonora Doclis.

So stop worrying about your hair and do something positive today. Visit Belgraviacentre.com for everything you need to know about hair loss and Belgravia's unique services or call today to arrange a free no obligation consultation with a Belgravia specialist.

Alternatively you can go on-line and complete Belgravia's straightforward diagnostic form to receive a first class mail service directly to your home.



"Belgravia has also helped thousands of women with hair loss or a scalp problem and could probably help you too"

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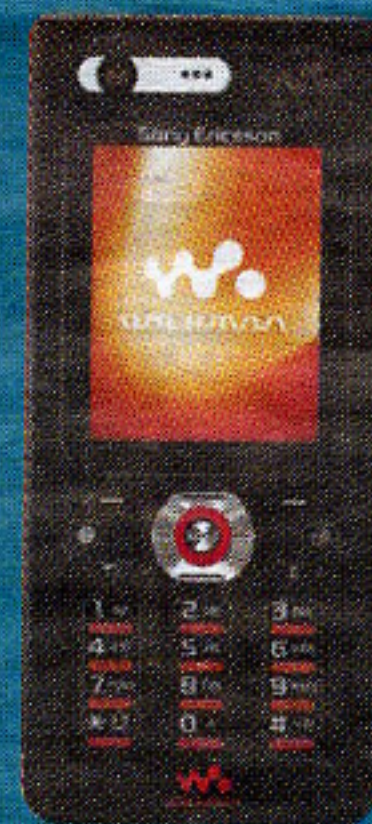
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The WSDO

From the Washington State Department of Tr

Friday, March 16, 2007

Crews Spot Snow Doughnut

When I first got these pictures from our maintenance crews on the North Cascades Pass (SR 20), I assumed they had used Photoshop and were pulling my chain. I called to verify the validity of the pictures. The crews promised that these were indeed real, and that snow doughnuts are a naturally occurring phenomenon. I had never seen this type of thing before, so I asked around the office and it appears no one else has either. I decided to send the pictures to the media, who also thought we used Photoshop.



According to Mike Stanford from our WSDOT avalanche team, snow doughnuts are a natural occurrence in nature. We do not build them. They form when there is a hard layer in the snow and is then covered by several inches of dense snow. Then you add a steep slope and a trigger, such as a clump of snow falling out of a tree or off of a rock face, and voila you have snow doughnuts.



As gravity pulls the clump down, the snow rolls down the hill, and

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99.9% of the time the center of the rolling snowball collapses in on itself and creates what we call a "pinwheel". If it doesn't roll down the

hill, then it will just slide, which is actually one of the mechanisms of a loose snow avalanche. But,

if the snow is the perfect density and temperature, it rolls around onto itself leaving the hole in the center, creating the doughnut-looking shape.



Stanford says he's rarely seen it happen. The temperatures and snow conditions have to be just right. In 30-plus years of playing and working in the snow, this was the second time he had ever seen them. Snow doughnuts seemingly could grow very big if conditions permitted. The one seen in the photograph is about 24" in diameter.

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